TN Buchanan
S.W.D.

Lehrer S.L.F.

Kaukauna Landfill

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Antipollution Steps Agreed to

KAUKAUNA — Landfill operator James Lehrer today agreed to take corrective steps recommended by a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) agent to halt stream pollution originating on the waste disposal site at Kaukauna's south edge.

Acting on complaints from a neighbor of the landfill and a student, DNR Agent Dennis Weisensel and an assistant this morning walked the edge of the landfill site where it borders a railroad track and the stream.

Ironically, the complaint from the neighbor which brought the DNR representatives to investigate was found to be minor and easily corrected, according to Weisensel.

The neighbor had reported that Lehrer was dumping refuse into the water of a small creek leading to the nearby stream, threatening to pollute the stream itself, and ultimately the Fox River into which the muddy red stream eventually flows to the north.

Weisensel found that the water was not flowing from the landfill site, but is apparently stagnant, though he said it could overflow if the level is raised by rainfall.

But at two other locations, the inspectors found liquid originating in the landfill running to the stream and advised Lehrer on measures to take to stop it.

One was near a culvert carrying run - off to the stream.

Weisensel advised Lehrer to excavate in the area and install a clay berm to stop the run-off before it reaches the culvert. He warned that precautions must be taken now because the area apparently will be used for dumping for a number of years to come and the condition will worsen unlesse stopped now.

Further upstream, armed with a Polaroid color camera, the inspectors found a stagnant pool between the edge of the landfill and the railroad bed.

On the opposite side of the tracks, a jet black stream of liquid several inches wide bubbled from the ground and ran a few feet to the stream where the liquid slid over the bank and sank to the bottom.

Weisensel said the material apparently has found a way to flow beneath the railroad bed from the stagnant pool and is a result of water percolating down through soil and waste in the landfill and leaching through to the stream bank.

Lehrer agreed to install a pump to force the water from the pool back up the hill onto the landfill to empty the area so it can be inspected and corrective steps such as a heavy clay fill applied to stop the flow under the railroad tracks.

Weisensel said he would repeat his oral instructions to Lehrer in a formal letter in a few days, after which he told Lehrer he may return to see whether the recommendations have been followed.

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